

History of the SSSSA

The ***Soil Science Society of South Africa*** was founded on the 27th of April 1953 in Pretoria. The founder members were: Dr C R van der Merwe, Prof. JJ Theron, Prof. ER Orchard, Prof. WJ Lütjharms, Dr J van Garderen, Dr CP Naudé, Miss I Sichel, Mr AV Betts, Mr P v.d M Bruwer, Mr GM Ferreira, Mr PA Louw, Mr H Klintworth, Mr G Murray, Mr MS Steyn, Mr FJ Rosenstrauch and Mr DJR van Dyk.

Miss Sichel, who passed away in Pretoria in 2002, was the last surviving SSSSA founder member.

Dr van der Merwe was elected as the first President of the Society. The full list of SSSSA ***Presidents*** is:

1953-58	Dr CR van der Merwe	1958-63	Prof. JJ Theron
1963-65	Prof. W J Fölscher	1965-70	Dr J van Garderen
1970-73	Prof. ER Orchard	1973-75	Prof. AA Theron
1975-78	Dr MCF du Plessis	1978-81	Prof. JM de Villiers
1981-83	Prof. R du T Burger	1983-84	Dr CN MacVicar
1984-86	Prof. RO Barnard	1986-87	Prof. ATP Bennie
1987-89	Prof. MC Laker	1989-90	Dr DM Scotney
1990-92	Mr JN Lambrechts	1992-94	Dr AJ van der Merwe
1994-96	Mr HM du Plessis	1996-98	Prof. JH Moolman
1998-99	Prof. CC du Preez	1999-2001	Dr JJ Bornman
2001-03	Prof. L van Huyssteen	2003-05	Dr JF Eloff
2005-07	Mr DG Paterson	2007-09	Dr JE Hoffman
2009-11	Dr CW van Huyssteen	2011-13	Dr DP Turner
2013-15	Dr PAL le Roux	2015-17	Dr R van Antwerpen
2017-19	Dr JJ Botha	2019-21	Mr M du Plessis
2021-23	Prof JJO Odhiambo	2023-25	Prof J van Tol

The ***Secretaries*** of the SSSSA have been:

1953-54	Mr FJ Rosenstrauch	1955-66	Mr G Murray
1967-73	Mr J van Woerkom	1974-75	Mr JN Lambrechts
1975-77	Dr PF Fuls	1978-79	Dr E Verster
1979-81	Prof. RO Barnard	1981-82	Dr RW Fitzpatrick
1983-2015	Mr TE Dohse	2015-22	Mrs M van der Walt
2022-23	Ms N Nortje	2023-24	Mrs JA Baatjies

The ***Congresses*** that have been hosted (or co-hosted) by the SSSSA have been:

1st Congress:	July 1965	Pretoria
2nd Congress:	July 1967	Pietermaritzburg
3rd Congress:	April 1970	Bloemfontein
4th Congress:	April 1971	Stellenbosch
5th Congress:	February 1973	Salisbury (now Harare)
6th Congress:	July 1975	Blyde River
7th Congress:	January 1977	Pretoria
8th Congress:	July 1978	Pietermaritzburg (<i>Silver Jubilee Congress</i>)
9th Congress:	January 1980	Durban
10th Congress:	July 1981	East London
11th Congress:	January 1983	Stellenbosch
12th Congress:	July 1984	Bloemfontein
13th Congress:	January 1986	Pretoria
14th Congress:	July 1987	Nelspruit
15th Congress:	January 1989	Wild Coast
16th Congress:	July 1990	Pretoria (<i>25th Anniversary of 1st Congress</i>)
17th Congress:	January 1992	Stellenbosch
18th Congress:	January 1994	Potchefstroom
19th Congress:	January 1995	Stellenbosch
20th Congress:	July 1996	Bloemfontein
21st Congress:	January 1998	Drakensberg
22nd Congress:	June 1999	Pretoria, Gauteng
23rd Congress:	January 2001	Pretoria, Gauteng
24th Congress:	January 2003	Stellenbosch (<i>Golden Jubilee Congress</i>)
25th Congress:	January 2005	Potchefstroom
26th Congress:	January 2006	Durban, KwaZulu Natal
27th Congress:	January 2007	Badplaas, Mpumalanga
28th Congress:	January 2008	Grahamstown, Eastern Cape
29th Congress:	January 2009	Stellenbosch, Western Cape
30 th Congress:	January 2010	Bloemfontein, North West
31 st Congress:	January 2011	Pretoria, Gauteng
32 nd Congress:	January 2012	Potchefstroom, North West
33 rd Congress:	January 2013	University of KZN, Durban, KwaZulu Natal
34 th Congress:	January 2014	Grahamstown, Eastern Cape
35 th Congress:	January 2015	Tramanto Resort, George, Western Cape
36 th Congress:	January 2016	Bloemfontein, Free State
37 th Congress:	January 2017	Klein-Kariba, Bela-Bela, Limpopo
38 th Congress:	January 2018	Cape Town, Western Cape
39 th Congress:	January 2019	Bloemfontein, Free State
40 th Congress:	January 2020	Bloemfontein, Free State

41 st Congress:	January 2022	Online
42 nd Congress:	January 2023	Pretoria (70 th Anniversary), Gauteng
43 rd Congress:	January 2024	Wilderness, Western Cape
44 th Congress:	January 2025	The Ranch, Polokwane, Limpopo

The SSSSA has a number of ***Honorary Members***. These are limited to fifteen and are:

Prof. HJ von M Harmse, Mr JJN Lambrechts, Dr CN MacVicar, Dr DM Scotney, Prof. H v H van der Watt, Dr M Hensley, Dr ADP Botha, Prof MC Laker, Dr H Venter, Prof RO Barnard, Dr RW Fitzpatrick, Dr P Grant and Mr TE Dohse.

Dr MCF du Plessis, Prof. WJ Fölscher, Dr JG Thompson, Prof. JM de Villiers, Dr RF Loxton, Prof. AA Theron and Prof. ER Orchard (all now deceased) were also honorary members.